Teachers Arrive Here Under Exchange Plan

Will Be Assigned to Louisiana

School Systems

By EMILE LAFOURCADE JR.

A corps of French national service personnel entered Louisiana Tuesday and will very soon be dispatched to key parts of the state. They came not to return to Louisiana and Nouvelle Orleans to the governmental realm of France but to begin making Louisianans “citizens” of their French homeland in the spirit of 1789.

The corps that arrived at New Orleans International Airport at 7 a.m. Tuesday consisted of 20 French teachers of French who will take part in the first bilingual teacher exchange program between the U.S. and a foreign nation.

Administering the program are the State Department of Education, the U.S. Department of State and the French Cultural Service, all under the sponsorship of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

TOUR OF CITY

The teachers, all of whom hold either bachelor’s or master’s degrees, were given a tour of the city and then greeted at the French Consulate Tuesday afternoon by Consul General Jean LeCannellier.

James F. Bezou, CODOFIL, head for the New Orleans district, gave the group a brief history of Louisiana.

The group comprised of 10 couples and 10 single men, all of whom are in their early 20s. They will be placed among 16 school systems in the state.

The husband-wife teams will be located in the same communities. Two such teams will teach in New Orleans. They are Mr. and Mrs. Jean Charbonnier of the city and then greeted at the French Consulate Tuesday afternoon by Consul General Jean LeCannellier.

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The schools they will staff are Craig, Edison, Lusher and Lawless Elementary Schools.

TWO YEAR TOUR

The teachers will spend two years here and then return to France. The State Board of Education has already dispatched two groups of Louisiana educators to France and a third group will leave soon for French Martinique.

FRENCH CONSUL General Jean LeCannellier (center left) assists James F. Bezou of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana in pointing out on a map the various Louisiana cities in which the French teachers of French standing behind them will be stationed during a two-year exchange program between the U.S. and French governments.

The teachers look forward to it very much. They said in France young men have a choice of serving their country either in the armed forces or in a national service program similar to the Peace Corps. The teacher exchange is considered the teachers’ national service duty.

Desrumaux said the group had been on the go ever since their plane landed here and, although he was a bit tired, he enjoyed most of what he has seen so far.

FRENCH QUARTER

“I was impressed by the lush vegetation and especially the..."